DOCKET NO.: 307557.01 / MSFT-3486
Application No.: 10/815,067
Office Action Dated: November 6, 2007

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 29-48 stand rejected in the Office Action dated November 6, 2007 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Excel (Microsoft® Excel 2000, Copyright (c) 1985-1999 Microsoft Corp.), ("Excel"). Claims 29 and 38 are the independent claims and have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, following the present response, claims 29-48 will be pending in this application.

Claim 29, as amended, is directed to a grid canvas comprising a canvas, a gridline on the canvas, and an element at least in part in a cell on the canvas. The gridline has a property that defines a relationship between the gridline to the element on the canvas that is maintained.

The Office Action alleges that Excel's cell D10 in FIG. 2 teaches "an element on the canvas" and that the movement of cell D10 and the gridline teaches a "property of the gridline, wherein the property is a relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas." However, Excel's cell such as D10 is not an "element on the canvas." Rather, a cell includes an area on the canvas where elements may span or be placed. (Application, para. [0029]). To further clarify this distinction, Applicants have amended claim 29 to recite "an element *at least in part in a cell* on the canvas."

Applicant's specification also provides this distinction between cells and elements. (Application, para. [0002]). For example, the specification states, *inter alia*, that a row and a column are said to form a cell and the object (*i.e.,* element) occupies the slots or cells defined by the row(s) and column(s). (Application, para. [0036], para. [0027]). And, because Excel's cell D10 is not an "element on the canvas," the movement of the gridline when expanding the cell cannot teach a property of a gridline that is a relationship of the gridline to an element on the canvas, because no element has been identified.

Moreover, nowhere does Excel teach a "property of the gridline." The movement of Excel's cell D10 and the gridline in FIG. 2 does not explicitly teach a property of the **gridline**, but rather a property of the cell. The Office Action references Excel's cell width in FIG. 4 ("Width: 10.29 (77 pixels)") as a relationship of a gridline to an element. (Office Action, page 4, rejection of claim 36). However, this illustrates the confusion of Excel's property of a cell with a property of a gridline. Excels' cell width is not a property of the

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gridline (*i.e.*, the gridline does not have "Width: 10.29"). Rather, this width is a property of the cell. Nowhere does Excel show a "property of the gridline" much less a property of the gridline that is a "relationship of the gridline to an element on the canvas."

Therefore, because Excel does not teach the features of claim 29, Applicants submit that claim 29 patentably defines over the cited reference. Claims 30-37 that depend from claim 29 are likewise allowable.

Independent claim 38 recites a method for creating a grid canvas with features of the grid canvas recited in claim 29 and has been similarly amended. Therefore, for the foregoing reasons regarding claim 29, Applicant submits that claim 38 and claims 39-48 are likewise allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 29-48.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the canceled claims obviate the rejections and the added claims are allowable. Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Lori Anne D. Swanson (215.564.8997) to discuss the resolution of any remaining issues.

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